

Message Text

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11
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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USMISSION NATO
DIA WASHDC
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PO
SUBJECT: CDS AND PPD STEP UP OPPOSITION

REF: LISBON A-227 DATED SEPTEMBER 3, 1976

SUMMARY: THE CDS AND PPD HAVE STEPPED UP CRITICISM OF THE SOARES GOVERNMENT. THE CDS WARNED OF THE DANGER OF DICTATORIAL SOLUTIONS UNLESS THE GOVERNMENT ACTS; PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN NO SIGNIFICANT ACTION TO DATE. BOTH PARTIES WILL ASSUME AN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE GOVERNMENT AS THEY GEAR UP FOR DECEMBER LOCAL ELECTIONS. END SUMMARY.

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1. CDS TO INTENSIFY OPPOSITION: THE CDS POLITICAL COMMITTEE

SEPT 19 ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AFTER A WEEKEND MEETING IN OPORTO:

- THE NUMBER OF DISBELIEVERS IN DEMOCRACY IS GROWING DAILY DUE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S UNFULFILLED PROMISES.
- THE GOVERNMENT HAS POWER BUT IS NOT GOVERNING. THE GOVERNMENT IS EITHER TOO WEAK OR UNABLE TO SOLVE GREAT NATIONAL PROBLEMS.
- PCP EFFORTS TO DESTABILIZE PUBLIC LIFE ARE GROWING IN THE INDUSTRIAL AND AGRARIAN SECTORS.
- THE CDS WILL GIVE A DOMOCRATIC ALTERNATIVE TO THE DISSATISFIED BY INTENSIFYING ITS OPPOSITION TO THE GOVERNMENT.

2. PPD WARNS OF COMMUNIST THREAT AND GOVERNMENT INACTION:

PRESIDENT EANES RECEIVED PPD LEADERS SEPT 18 IN A ROUND OF CONSULTATIONS WITH THE MAJOR PARTIES. PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS AFTER MEETING WITH EANES:

- PORTUGUESE MIGHT AGAIN BE CALLED TO DEFEND THEIR LIBERTY AGAINST THE COMMUNISTS.
- THE GOVERNMENT HAS HAD TIME TO DEMONSTRATE ITS CAPACITY FOR ACTION AND STILL HAS TIME AS LONG IT RETAINS THE CONFIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE ASSEMBLY. HOWEVER, UNTIL NOW, THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT GOVERNMENT ACTION HAS BEEN THE SOARES SEPT 9 SPEECH.
- THE PPD WILL DO NOTHING TO AID OR TOPPLE THE GOVERNMENT ALTHOUGH THE PPD WILL ADOPT A CRITICAL ATTITUDE.

3. NEW COMMUNIST FRONT FORMED: THE PCP AND THE FOLLOW-TRAVELLING MDP ANNOUNCED SEPT 19 THE FORMATION OF A NEW ELECTION FRONT APPROPRIATELY CALLED PU -- "POVO UNIDO" (THE PEOPLE UNITED). PU WILL SEEK TO ATTRACT PARTICIPANTS FROM ALL POLITICAL PARTIES.

4. DUTCH FONMIN VISIT: MAX VAN DER STOEL, FONMIN OF THE NETHERLANDS AND EEC CHAIRMAN, VISITED PORTUGAL SEPT 17 AND 18. VAN DER STOEL SAID HE WAS NOT IN PORTUGAL TO NEGOTIATE ON BEHALF OF THE EEC, BUT TO LEARN ABOUT PORTUGUESE INTENTIONS. HE STATED THAT THE EEC WAS HOPEFUL THAT ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL PROBLEMS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COULD BE OVERCOME TO PERMIT PORTUGAL'S ENTRY INTO THE COMMON MARKET. VAN DER STOEL MET WITH PRESIDENT EANES, PRIME MINISTER SOARES, AND FONMIN MEDEIROS FERREIRA.

5. COMMENT: THE CDS AND PPD HAVE ASSUMED AN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD THE SOARES GOVERNMENT IN PREPARATION FOR DECEMBER LOCAL ELECTIONS. SENSING IT HAS AN ISSUE, THE DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION HAS BEGUN TO HIT

HARD AT THE SOARES GOVERNMENT FOR NOT TAKING MORE DRAMATIC
ACTION TO COMBAT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. THE COMMUNISTS ARE
SEEKING TO FORM A BROAD FRONT OF THE LEFT FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS
(REFAIR), BUT AN ALLIANCE WITH THE FELLOW-TRAVELLING MDP
MAY BE THE BEST THEY CAN DO.
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